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**MAILED**

**APR 23 2012**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 5,968,067	:	
Issue Date: October 19, 1999	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Application No. 09/123,277	:	
Filed: July 28, 1998	:	
Title: SURGICAL PENILE DILATOR	:	
INSTRUMENT AND METHOD FOR ITS USE	:	

This is a decision in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed April 2, 2012, to accept the unavoidably delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) is **granted**.

The patent issued on October 19, 1999. The third maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from October 19, 2010 through April 19, 2011, or with a surcharge during the period from April 20, 2011 through October 19, 2011. Accordingly, this patent expired on October 20, 2011, for failure to timely pay the third maintenance fee.

Patentees have demonstrated that that delay in timely payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable. Additionally, patentees submitted a credit card payment form authorizing the Office to charge the appropriate amounts for the maintenance fee and surcharge. Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

*Christina Tartera Donnell*

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Conferee: Antony Knight, Director